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1700 K Street, NW
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20006

Direct
202-540-7200 Main
202-540-7201 Fax

December 9, 2019

Re: Norway's International Treaty Violations on Climate Change; On behalf of Greta Thunberg, Chiara Sacchi, Catarina Lorenzo, Iris Duquesne, Raina Ivanova, Ridhima Pandey, David Ackley, III, Ranton Anjain, Litokne Kabua, Deborah Adegbile, Carlos Manuel, Ayakha Melithafa, Raslen Jbeili, Carl Smith, and Alexandria Villaseñor.

Dear Prime Minister Erna Solberg:

I write on behalf of the 16 youth Petitioners who have brought a complaint concerning the human rights impacts of climate change before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child against Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, and Turkey.¹ The Petitioners wish to inform you that by increasing oil and gas production in the face of the climate emergency, Norway is violating the rights bestowed on every child in the world under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

To uphold Norway's human rights obligations, as well as its own constitutional obligations and international and domestic commitments to tackle climate change, the Petitioners urge you to cease new fossil fuel production and to manage the decline of existing production. Keep your oil and gas in the ground. Expanding your North Sea production will lock in decades of greenhouse gas emissions, jeopardizing the universal rights of all children to life, health, and culture. As children, the Petitioners are the ones who will inherit the worst impacts of the climate crisis and bear the future costs of the decisions you make today.

Norway prides itself for being an international climate leader. Its decisions to divest from coal, oil and gas since 2015 have set an example for governments and investors worldwide. Norway's electricity system is almost entirely renewable, and it boasts the highest share of electric vehicles in the world.

Yet your government continues to support new fossil fuel production, despite projections that Norway will miss its emissions reduction targets for 2020 and 2030 under current policies.² Oil and gas extraction accounted for more than a quarter of Norway's greenhouse gas emissions in 2018, up by 73 percent since 1990.³ Production from the new Johan Sverdrup deepwater field alone is expected to increase Norway's daily oil output from 1.3 million barrels now to 1.6 million in 2020 and 1.8 million in 2021.⁴ Instead, Norway has

¹ The Petitioners' complaint is available at <https://childrenvsclimatecrisis.org/>.

² Climate Action Tracker (Sept. 19, 2019), <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/norway/current-policy-projections/>.

³ Statistics Norway (Nov. 1, 2019), <https://www.ssb.no/en/klimagassn>.

⁴ Clifford Krauss, *Flood of Oil is Coming, Complicating Efforts to Fight Global Warming*, The New York Times (Nov. 3, 2019),

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the opportunity to halve the cost of achieving its 2020 emissions target by reducing investment and production in its oil fields.⁵

The science is clear: Any new fossil fuel production will contribute to further catastrophic and avoidable climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 Special Report stated that global emissions must peak by 2020 and decline by at least 50 percent by 2030 in order to stay within a 1.5°C temperature rise. Any additional warming, it said, would lead to millions more deaths and trillions of US dollars' worth of additional damage.

The Petitioners hail from the Marshall Islands, Palau, the United States, Brazil, Argentina, France, Germany, Tunisia, Nigeria, India, Sweden, and South Africa. They are experiencing firsthand the threats that come with every fraction of a degree of global warming. Forest fires have burned their homes and poisoned their air; their exposure to infectious diseases is rising; their water supplies are threatened and limited by drought; storms have flooded their homes and schools; rising sea levels are drowning their homelands; and changing temperatures are destroying their food sources and threatening indigenous traditions and livelihoods.

On September 23, 2019, the Petitioners submitted a legal complaint to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child against five G20 countries – Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, and Turkey – for perpetuating the climate crisis by failing to curb emissions and by promoting fossil fuels. The rights underlying these claims apply to all nations, including Norway, which ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child nearly three decades ago.

Norway's actions promoting fossil fuels, like the actions of these five respondent states, are in violation of human rights law. The Committee on the Rights of the Child put your government on notice in 2018 for climate policies that endanger children's rights. It highlighted Norway's "exploitation of fossil fuels" and recommended that Norway "increase its focus on alternative energy and establish safeguards to protect children," domestically and internationally, from "the negative impacts of fossil fuels."

Five human rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, jointly recognized in September that "climate change poses significant risks to the enjoyment of the human rights" protected under international treaties to which Norway is a party. "Failure to take measures to prevent foreseeable human rights harm caused by climate change, or to regulate activities contributing to such harm," may constitute a violation of a state's human rights obligations, the committees stated. To comply with these treaties, nations must "adopt and implement policies aimed at reducing emissions, which reflect the highest possible ambition" and "ensure that public *and private investments are consistent*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/03/business/energy-environment/oil-supply.html>.

⁵ 2019 Production Gap Report (Nov. 20, 2019),

<http://productiongap.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Production-Gap-Report-2019.pdf>.

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with a pathway towards low carbon emissions and climate resilient development.”

That means all countries — including Norway — must “effectively contribute to phasing out fossil fuels.”

Norway’s international and domestic commitments to limit climate change further preclude fossil fuel expansion. The Paris Agreement, which Norway ratified in 2016, set a global goal for net-zero emissions by mid-century. Domestic legislation aims to make Norway a “low-carbon society” by 2050, with emissions 80-95 percent below 1990 levels. Still, Norway continues to produce and sell fossil fuels, helping prevent the world from reaching net-zero emissions by mid-century.

Finally, the Norwegian constitution guarantees the right to a healthy environment for all. It says natural resources are to be managed with a longer term and comprehensive view of securing this right for future generations.

The climate emergency is here. Our house is burning, now. The world is headed towards 3.2°C of warming.⁶ The 2019 Lancet Countdown report concluded that “the life of every child born today will be profoundly affected by climate change . . . in a fundamentally altered world.” Additional global warming will affect “human health from infancy and adolescence to adulthood and old age.” Rising air pollution will cause more deaths and damage to hearts, lungs, and other vital organs. Infectious diseases will spread. More frequent droughts and floods will threaten water supplies, undermine food production and safety and increase malnutrition.

Norway must honor its responsibilities to children everywhere. It must apply its international climate leadership to all domestic action. It must demonstrate how a major fossil fuels producer and exporter can transition away from these pollutants, blazing a trail for other fossil fuel-reliant economies to follow. It must end the search for and exploitation of new oil and gas reserves, and set a plan to quickly phase out existing production fields. It must stop prioritizing short-term economic gains over the future of its children and all children around the world.

We would appreciate a response to this letter within 14 days.

Very sincerely yours,

Michael D. Hausfeld
Counsel

⁶ UN Environment Programme Emissions Gap Report 2019 (Nov. 26, 2019), <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2019>.

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On behalf of signatories:

Greta Thunberg (Sweden)
Chiara Sacchi (Argentina)
Catarina Lorenzo (Brazil)
Iris Duquesne (France)
Raina Ivanova (Germany)
Ridhima Pandey (India)
David Ackley, III (Marshall Islands)
Ranton Anjain (Marshall Islands)
Litokne Kabua (Marshall Islands)
Deborah Adegbile (Nigeria)
Carlos Manuel (Palau)
Ayakha Melithafa (South Africa)
Raslen Jbeili (Tunisia)
Carl Smith (USA – Alaska)
Alexandria Villaseñor (USA – New York)

This material is distributed by Hausfeld on behalf of Alexandria Villaseñor, Carl Smith, Catarina Lorenzo, Chiara Sacchi, Greta Thunberg, Iris Duquesne, Raina Ivanova, Raslene Joubali, Debby Adegbile, Ayakha Melithafa, Ridhima Pandey, Carlos Manuel, Litokne Kabua, David Ackley III, and Ranton Anjain. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Environment

Fossil fuel firms 'could be sued' for climate change

Filipino human rights committee finds world's biggest oil companies have legal and moral responsibilities to act, as Greta Thunberg says children's rights being violated

Isabella Kaminski Madrid | @Isabella_Kam | 21 hours ago | 12 comments



2

A firefighter battles a wildfire known as the Maria Fire in Somis, California in October (AP)

landmark victory for climate justice.

The head of a Philippines Commission on Human Rights panel, which has been investigating **climate change** for three years, revealed its conclusions on Monday that major fossil fuel firms may be held legally responsible for the impacts of their carbon emissions.

The announcement was made by commissioner Roberto Cadiz during **COP25 international climate talks** in Madrid, which have seen a growing focus on human rights issues.

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The commission was tasked in 2016 by Greenpeace South-East Asia and other local environmental groups whether 47 of the world's biggest fossil fuel firms – including Shell, BP, ExxonMobil and Total – were violating the rights of Filipino citizens. It held hearings in Manila, New York and London where it heard from scientists, lawyers and people who had suffered from climate-related disasters.

Its final report, which has yet to be published, will say that these companies have clear legal and moral responsibilities to act, which includes shifting away from **fossil**



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Greenpeace Southeast Asia executive director Yeb Saño described the inquiry's conclusions as a "landmark victory for climate justice".

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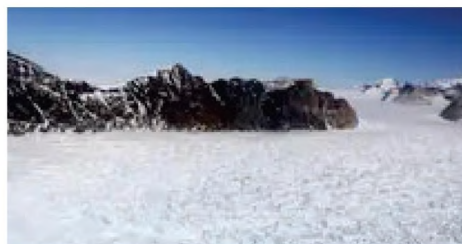
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He noted that a growing number of cases related to climate change are now being filed in courts across the world “and with the conclusion of this investigation, we believe many more communities will take a stand against fossil fuel companies that are putting profit before people”.

ExxonMobil, for example, one of the world’s largest oil and gas firms, has faced multiple legal challenges from US states and shareholders who claim it misled investors and the public over the real risks of climate change. And in Germany, utility firm RWE is being sued by Peruvian farmer and mountain guide Saúl Luciano Lliuya whose home is at risk from a melting glacier.

The human rights implications of climate change cannot be avoided during the ongoing talks in **Madrid**, but observers fear that attempts to include human rights protections in the **finer details of the Paris Agreement are failing**.

In September the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet **described the climate crisis** as a “rapidly growing and global threat to human rights” and said no countries or institutions could stand on the sidelines without acting on it.

On Tuesday, a group of young people including Swedish teenage activist **Greta Thunberg** will send a letter to the prime ministers of Norway and Canada accusing them of violating children's rights by supporting new oil and gas development.

They had already lodged a **petition** with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in September, saying Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany and Turkey are perpetuating the climate crisis by failing to curb emissions and promoting fossil fuels.

During her first official appearance at the talks, Thunberg also sought to draw attention to the plight of Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups by



disproportionately at risk from climate change despite contributing little to global carbon emissions, feel their stories have been sidelined in political discussions and the wider media.

Angela Valenzuela, an activist from Chile, which was originally due to host the talks, said she had found it “outrageous” that her government had tried to clean up its image in Madrid “while committing human rights violations every day”.

“While countries congratulate each other for their weak commitments the world is literally burning out,” she said. “But we are courageous. We continue to flood the streets, even if we are risking our lives.”

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Climate Changed

Greta Thunberg Says Norway, Canada Oil Violates Children Rights

By Mikael Holter

December 9, 2019, 6:01 PM EST



Greta Thunberg attends a news conference at the COP25 Climate Conference in Madrid, Spain on Dec. 9.
Photographer: Pablo Blazquez Dominguez/Getty Images

Greta Thunberg and 15 other youth climate activists urged Norway and Canada to wind down their oil and gas production, which they said violates children's rights around the world.

In letters to the prime ministers of both countries, the campaigners contrasted their self-professed roles as international leaders in the fight against climate change against their planned increase in fossil-fuel production, according to a statement from law firm Hausfeld LLP, which

represents the petitioners. Higher output breaches commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the activists said.



It's not the first time Thunberg, 16, has gone up against Norway, which neighbors her native Sweden. In October, she criticized the Scandinavian countries' emissions record, and cited Norway's oil policies as one of the reasons for rejecting the Nordic Council Environment Prize.

"Norway must honor its responsibilities to children everywhere," Thunberg and the 15 other activists said in the letter to Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg. "It must demonstrate how a major fossil fuels producer and exporter can transition away from these pollutants, blazing a trail for other fossil fuel-reliant economies to follow."

The same 16 petitioners, including children from Nigeria, the U.S. and the Marshall Islands, filed a legal complaint with the UN in September against France, Germany, Brazil, Argentina, and Turkey for not doing enough to tackle climate change. Their latest missives coincide with the UN's COP25 meeting in Madrid, where Thunberg arrived last week after sailing back across the Atlantic following her trip to the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in September.

Read: Teen Activist Greta Thunberg to World Leaders: How Dare You!

Norway is western Europe's biggest oil and gas producer. After three years of decline, its crude production is set to surge next year following the start of the giant Johan Sverdrup field in the North Sea. Output will then drop again from the middle of the next decade.

Canada, which has the world's third-biggest proven oil reserves, pumped more than OPEC's second-biggest contributor Iraq in 2018, according to BP Plc data. The North American nation's energy regulator expects crude output to grow by almost 50% by 2040.

In this article

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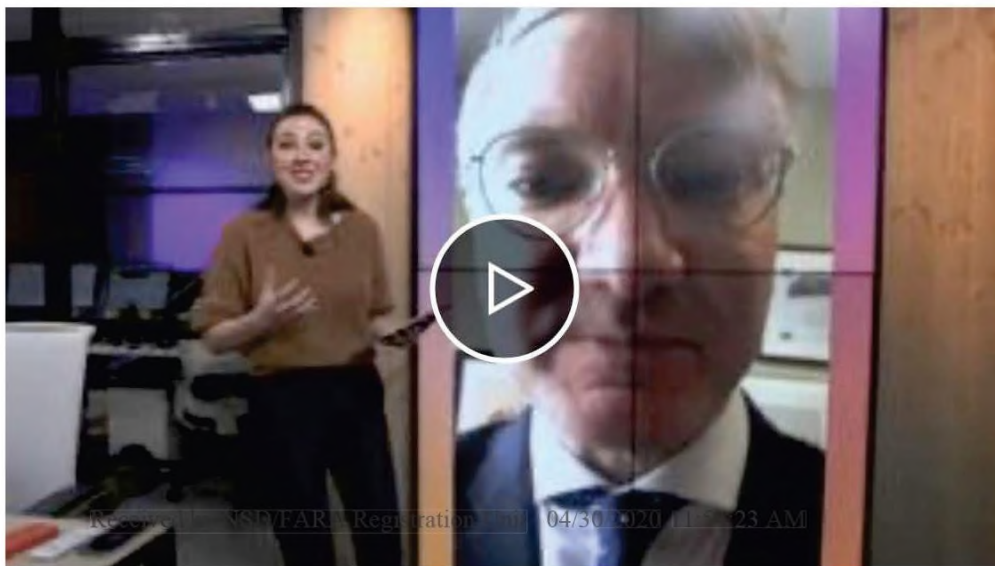
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Euronews interviews Hausfeld's **Scott Gilmore** and asks why 16 child petitioners are taking action on **#climate** change. Watch the clip here: <https://bit.ly/2Tv2lWW>
#FridaysforFuture

About the Legal Communication on behalf of the children: <https://bit.ly/36VKX1z>

DISCLAIMER: This material is distributed by Hausfeld LLP on behalf of Alexandria Villasenor, Carl Smith, Catarina Lorenzo, Chiara Sacchi, Greta Thunberg, Iris Duquesne, Raina Ivanova, Raslene Joubali, Debby Adegbile, Ayakha Melithafa, Ridhima Pandey, Carlos Manuel, Litokne Kabua, David Ackley III, and Ranton Anjain. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.



EURONEWS Scott Gilmore

EMBARGOED until 12:01 CET Tuesday, December 10 // 18:01 EST Monday, December 9

Norway, Canada are breaching children's rights by boosting oil and gas output

Tuesday, December 10 — A law firm representing 16 children from around the world sent letters today — Human Rights Day — to the governments of Norway and Canada, warning that their support for oil and gas expansion breaches their commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

To uphold their human rights obligations, as well as their international commitments to tackle climate change, the children are urging Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to cease new fossil fuel production and manage the decline of existing production.

Norway and Canada pride themselves for being international climate leaders. Norway's sovereign wealth fund has helped spearhead divestment from fossil fuels, while Canada helped launch the Powering Past Coal Alliance to end unabated coal-fired power by 2030. Yet, both countries continue to increase their own oil and gas production — fueling the climate crisis and shirking their human rights responsibilities to the world's youngest generations.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Norway and Canada signed nearly three decades ago, states that whenever adults make decisions, or do anything that affects children, they should think about what is best for the child. Additionally, [five human rights treaty bodies](#) jointly recognised in September 2019 that “climate change poses significant risks to the enjoyment of the human rights” protected under international treaties to which both countries are parties.

Norway is projected to miss its emissions reduction targets for 2020 and 2030 under current policies, according to [Climate Action Tracker](#). However, production from the new Johan Sverdrup deepwater field alone is expected to increase Norway's daily oil output from 1.3 million barrels now to 1.6 million in 2020 and 1.8 million in 2021.

Canada's policies are projected to keep its emissions above 1990 levels beyond 2030, according to [Climate Action Tracker](#). Still, its oil production is set to increase by 60 percent between 2017 and 2040, and gas by 34 percent, supported by large new pipeline projects.

The 16 children represented in these letters lodged a [petition](#) with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on September 23, 2019, claiming that five G20 countries — Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany and Turkey — are perpetuating the climate crisis by failing to curb emissions and promoting fossil fuels. The rights underlying these claims apply to all countries, including Norway and Canada.

The children come from the Marshall Islands, Palau, the United States, Brazil, Argentina, France, Germany, Tunisia, Nigeria, India, and South Africa, and are speaking up for the rights of children everywhere. They are represented by the international law firm Hausfeld.

Michael D. Hausfeld, founder and chairman of Hausfeld: *"By ramping up oil production and increasing greenhouse gas emissions at a time when the world should be moving in the opposite direction, Canada and Norway are risking the lives of children and violating their fundamental human rights under international law. The writing is on the wall: There is one year left for nations to meet the Paris Agreement goals and meaningfully act in response to the climate emergency. After that, the fate of the world's children may be irreversibly sealed."*

Carlos Manuel, petitioner from Palau: *"We all have the right to enjoy our planet and we should all protect that right. Our generation is trying to prevent climate change for future generations."*

Iris Duquesne, petitioner from France: *"It just makes me angry. They're supposed to be our government and they're supposed to protect us ... They don't realize it will cost less money if we act now than if we act later."*

Catarina Lorenzo, petitioner from Brazil: *"It is our future and world leaders should hear us. If they don't act to stop the climate crisis it is our future that will be affected."*

For queries, please contact:

Callum Grieve (in Madrid)

Mission 2020

cgrieve@mac.com

+1 917 324 1969

Deborah Schwartz (in the US, EST)

Media relations for Hausfeld

+1 240 355-8838

deborah@mediarelationsinc.com

Sara Stefanini (in London)

Mission 2020

sstefanini@mission2020.global

+44 (0) 7523 835 605

HAUSFELD



1700 K Street, NW
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20006

Direct
202-540-7200 Main
202-540-7201 Fax

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Re: Canada's International Treaty Violations on Climate Change; On behalf of Greta Thunberg, Chiara Sacchi, Catarina Lorenzo, Iris Duquesne, Raina Ivanova, Ridhima Pandey, David Ackley, III, Ranton Anjain, Litokne Kabua, Deborah Adegbile, Carlos Manuel, Ayakha Melithafa, Raslen Jbeili, Carl Smith, and Alexandria Villaseñor.

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau:

I write on behalf of the 16 youth Petitioners who have brought a complaint concerning the human rights impacts of climate change before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child against Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, and Turkey.¹ The Petitioners wish to inform you that by increasing oil and gas production in the face of the climate emergency, Canada is violating the rights bestowed on every child in the world under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

To uphold Canada's human rights obligations, as well as its international commitments to tackle climate change, the Petitioners urge you to cease new fossil fuel production and to manage the decline of existing production. Keep your oil and gas in the ground. Expanding your oil and gas production will lock in decades of greenhouse gas emissions, jeopardizing the universal rights of all children to life, health, and culture. As children, the Petitioners are the ones who will inherit the worst impacts of the climate crisis and bear the future costs of the decisions you make today.

Canada prides itself for being a climate leader. Canada is phasing out coal-fired power generation and has spearheaded international initiatives to drive political momentum behind the Paris Agreement, including the Powering Past Coal Alliance and annual Ministerial on Climate Action summit.

Yet your government continues to support the expansion of Canadian oil production, even as current policies would keep your greenhouse gas emissions above 1990 levels beyond 2030.² Canada is the world's fourth largest producer and exporter of oil, with 96 percent of exports sent to the United States.³ Its oil production is projected to increase by 60 percent between 2017 and 2040, and gas by 34 percent.⁴ To support that output, you are promoting new projects including the 1,600-kilometer Line 3 pipeline between Alberta and

¹ Our complaint is available at <https://childrenvsclimatecrisis.org/>.

² Climate Action Tracker (Sept. 19, 2019), <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/canada/>.

³ Natural Resources of Canada, *Crude Oil Facts*, (Sept. 8, 2019), <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/science-data/data-analysis/energy-data-analysis/energy-facts/crude-oil-facts/20064>.

⁴ 2019 Production Gap Report (Nov. 20, 2019), <http://productiongap.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Production-Gap-Report-2019.pdf>.

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Wisconsin, which is nearing completion and could raise Canadian oil production by 500,000 barrels per day, or 10 percent;⁵ and the 1,000-km expansion of the government-owned Trans Mountain pipeline, which would triple the pipeline's capacity.⁶

The science is clear: Any new fossil fuel production will contribute to further catastrophic and avoidable climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 Special Report stated that global emissions must peak by 2020 and decline by at least 50 percent by 2030 in order to stay within a 1.5°C temperature rise. Any additional warming, it said, would lead to millions more deaths and trillions of US dollars' worth of additional damage. As the Procurator General of the Netherlands recently recognized in the case *Urgenda Foundation v. The Netherlands*, every increase of emissions contributes to the increase of global warming, just as "every reduction of emissions" contributes "to the reduction of global warming."⁷ This is especially true when Canada's increased emissions add to those of other states.

The Petitioners hail from the Marshall Islands, Palau, the United States, Brazil, Argentina, France, Germany, Tunisia, Nigeria, India, Sweden, and South Africa. They are experiencing firsthand the threats that come with every fraction of a degree of global warming. Forest fires have burned their homes and poisoned their air; their exposure to infectious diseases is rising; their water supplies are threatened and limited by drought; storms have flooded their homes and schools; rising sea levels are drowning their homelands; and changing temperatures are destroying their food sources and threatening indigenous traditions and livelihoods.

On September 23, 2019, the Petitioners submitted a legal complaint to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child against five G20 countries – Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany and Turkey – for perpetuating the climate crisis by failing to curb emissions and by promoting fossil fuels.

Canada, which ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child nearly three decades ago, is bound to respect the same rights underlying these claims. Five human rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, have recognized that "climate change poses significant risks to the enjoyment of the human rights" protected under international treaties to which Canada is a party. "Failure to take measures to prevent foreseeable human rights harm caused by climate change, or to regulate activities contributing to such harm," may constitute a violation of a state's human rights obligations, the committees stated. To comply with these treaties, they added, nations must "adopt and implement policies aimed at reducing emissions, which reflect the highest possible ambition" and "ensure that *public and private investments are consistent with a pathway towards low carbon emissions and climate resilient development.*"

⁵ Clifford Krauss, *Flood of Oil is Coming, Complicating Efforts to Fight Global Warming*, The New York Times (Nov. 3, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/03/business/energy-environment/oil-supply.html>.

⁶ *Trans Mountain: Canada approves \$4.5bn oil pipeline project*, BBC (June 18, 2019), <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-48641293>.

⁷ Conclusions of the Procurator General, *Urgenda Foundation v. The Netherlands*, No. 19/00135, Oct. 8, 2019.

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That means all countries — including Canada — must “effectively contribute to phasing out fossil fuels.” Canada’s expansion also contradicts its commitment to the Paris Agreement, which set the global goal to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century and which Canada ratified in 2016. A domestic target for net-zero emissions by 2050, as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised in his 2019 campaign,⁸ would further preclude any new fossil fuel production.

The climate emergency is here. Our house is burning, now. The world is headed towards 3.2°C of warming.⁹ The 2019 Lancet Countdown report concluded that “the life of every child born today will be profoundly affected by climate change . . . in a fundamentally altered world.” Additional global warming will affect “human health from infancy and adolescence to adulthood and old age.” Rising air pollution will cause more deaths and damage to hearts, lungs, and other vital organs. Infectious diseases will spread. More frequent droughts and floods will threaten water supplies, undermine food production and safety and increase malnutrition.

The Petitioners urge you to heed the prevailing science and the recommendations of human rights treaty bodies, and to honor Canada’s responsibilities to children everywhere. Canada must apply its international climate leadership to all domestic action. It must demonstrate how a major fossil fuels producer and exporter can transition away from these pollutants, blazing a trail for other fossil fuel-reliant economies to follow. It must end the development and export of new oil and gas reserves, and set a plan to quickly phase out existing production fields. It must stop prioritizing short-term economic gains over the future of its children and all children around the world.

We would appreciate a response to this letter within 14 days.

Very sincerely yours,

Michael D. Hausfeld
Counsel

On behalf of signatories:
Greta Thunberg (Sweden)
Chiara Sacchi (Argentina)
Catarina Lorenzo (Brazil)
Iris Duquesne (France)

⁸ Chloé Farand, *Justin Trudeau’s narrow victory lays path for net zero carbon Canada*, Climate Home News (Oct. 22, 2019), <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2019/10/22/justin-trudeaus-narrow-victory-sets-canada-net-zero-carbon-path/>.

⁹ UN Environment Programme Emissions Gap Report 2019 (Nov. 26, 2019), <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2019>.

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Carl Smith (USA – Alaska)
Alexandria Villaseñor (USA – New York)

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